

Digital Logic Design + Computer Architecture

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CPU Datapath

What is “Datapath” for a Processor?

- Same as the datapath control split we studied for GCD processor.
 - **Datapath processes the data**
 - **Controller tells how to process the data**
- But here it’s for processing the instructions in an ISA
- A datapath that can process all the instructions in an ISA



Image generated by ChatGPT

Datapath Elements

- We shall begin with the simplest case
 - Every instruction finishes in **one clock cycle**
 - The clock frequency is determined by the instruction finishes last
- Remember, again how we constructed the GCD datapath
- Let's first identify what are the components needed



Image generated by ChatGPT

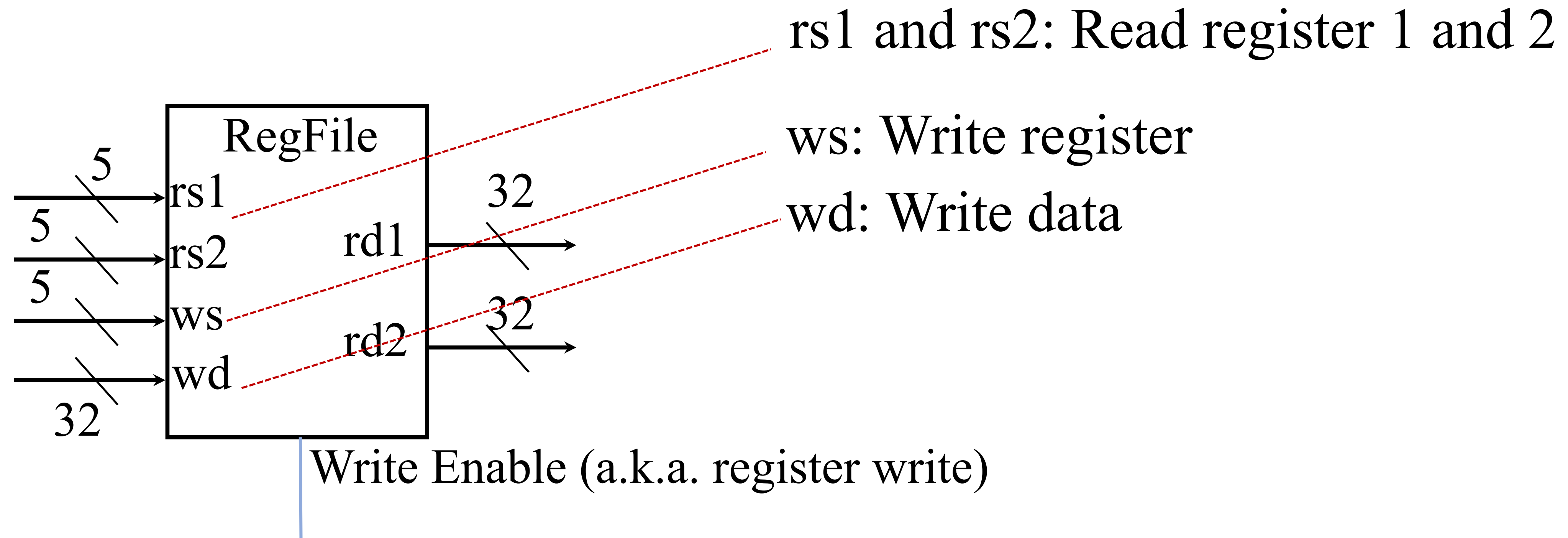
Datapath Elements

- Remember, again how we constructed the GCD datapath
- Let's first identify what are the components needed

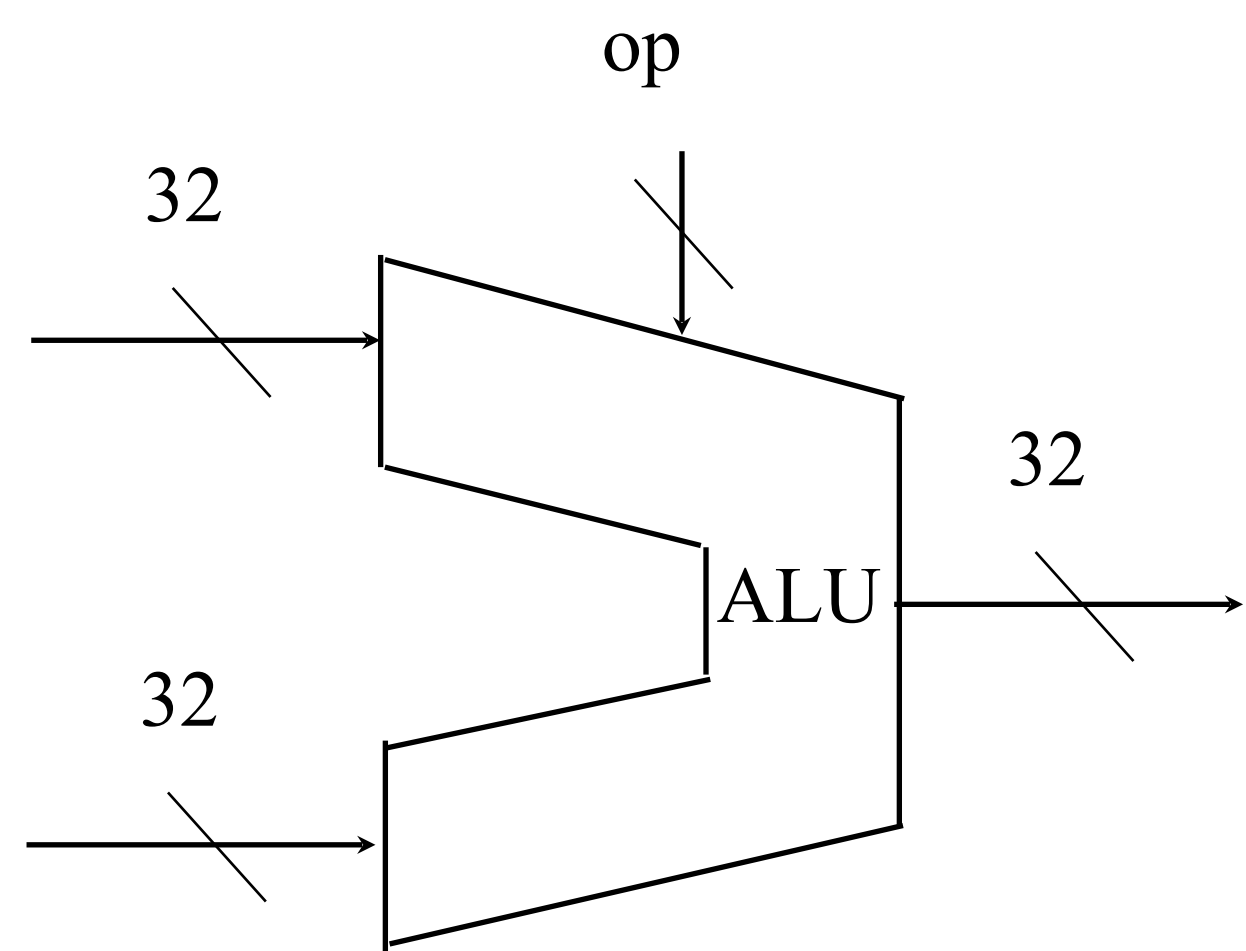


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Datapath Elements: Register File

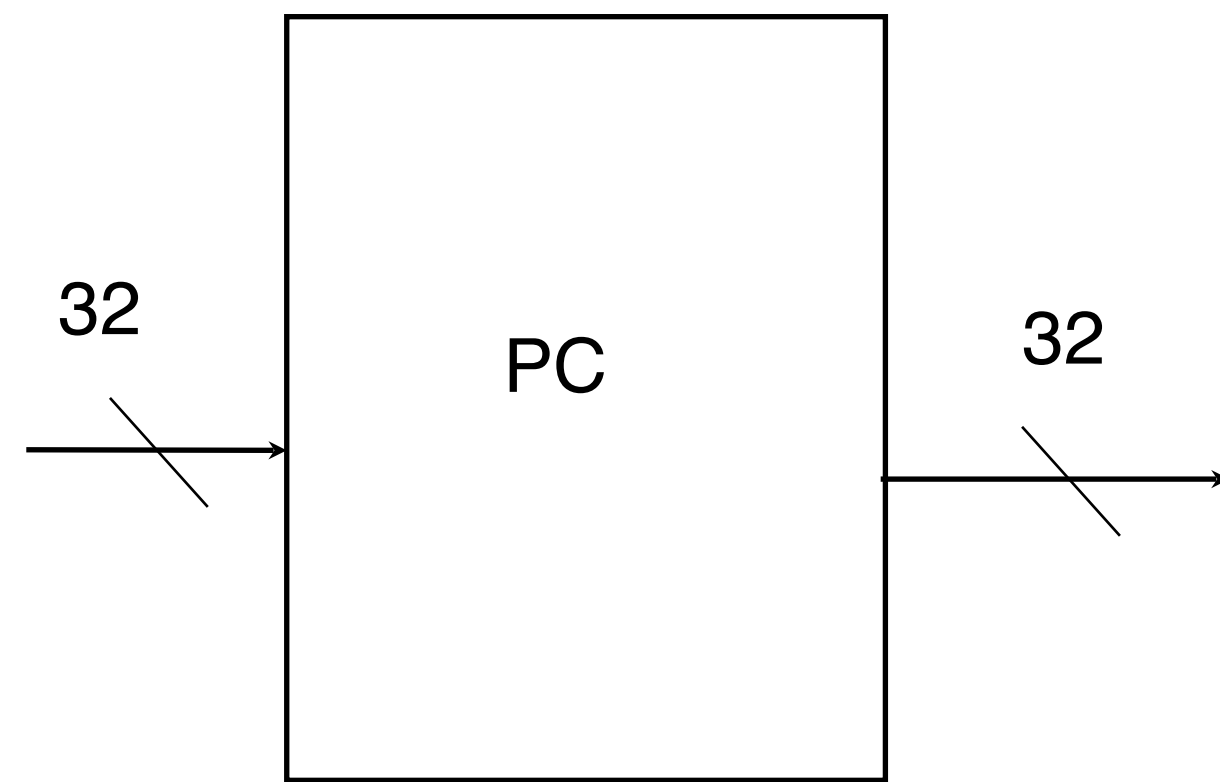


Datapath Elements: The ALU



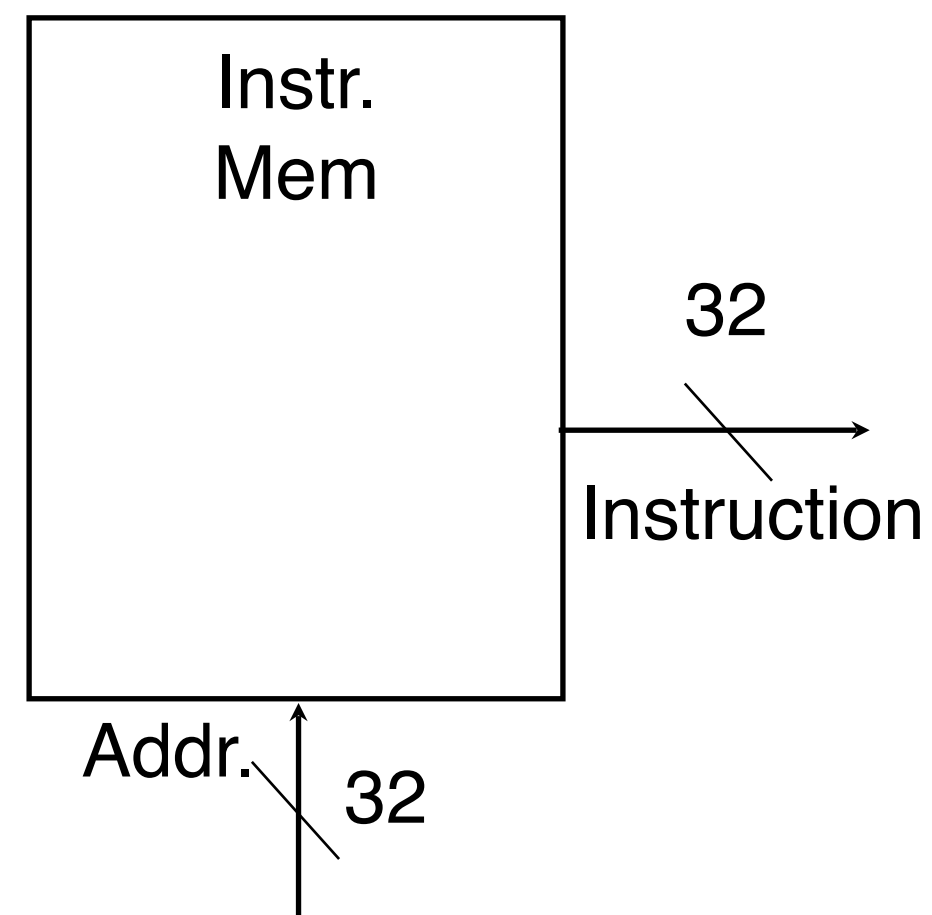
- All arithmetic and logical operation happens here
- Operation selection
- E.g.,
 - $Op = 0: Y = A + B$
 - $OP = 1: Y = A - B$
 - $OP = 2; Y = A * B$

Datapath Elements: Program Counter



- Remember PC register??
- It always points to the next instruction to be executed...
- But where is the next instruction???

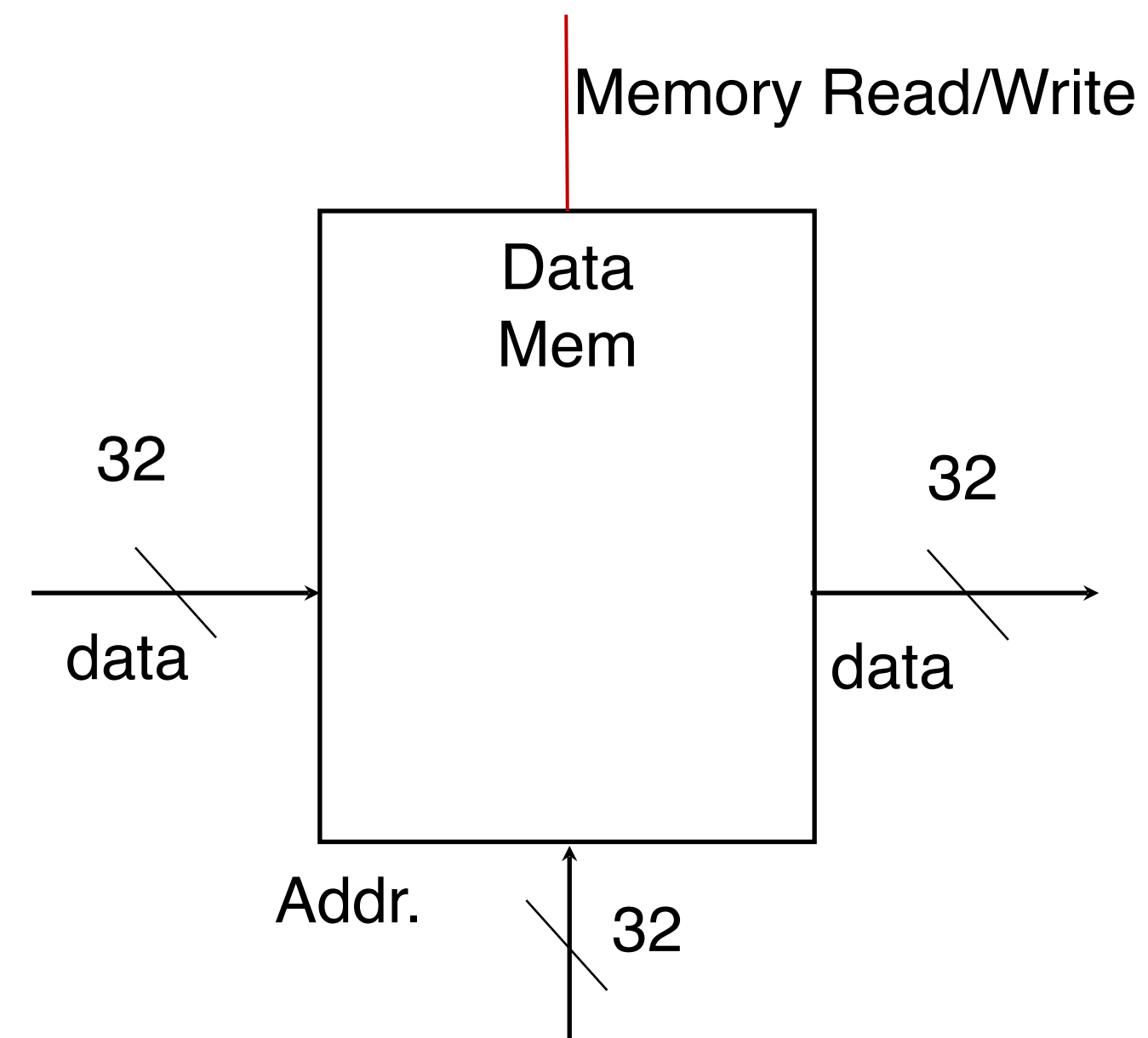
Datapath Elements: Instruction Memory



Remember: No writes to instruction memory

Not concerned about how programs are loaded into this memory.

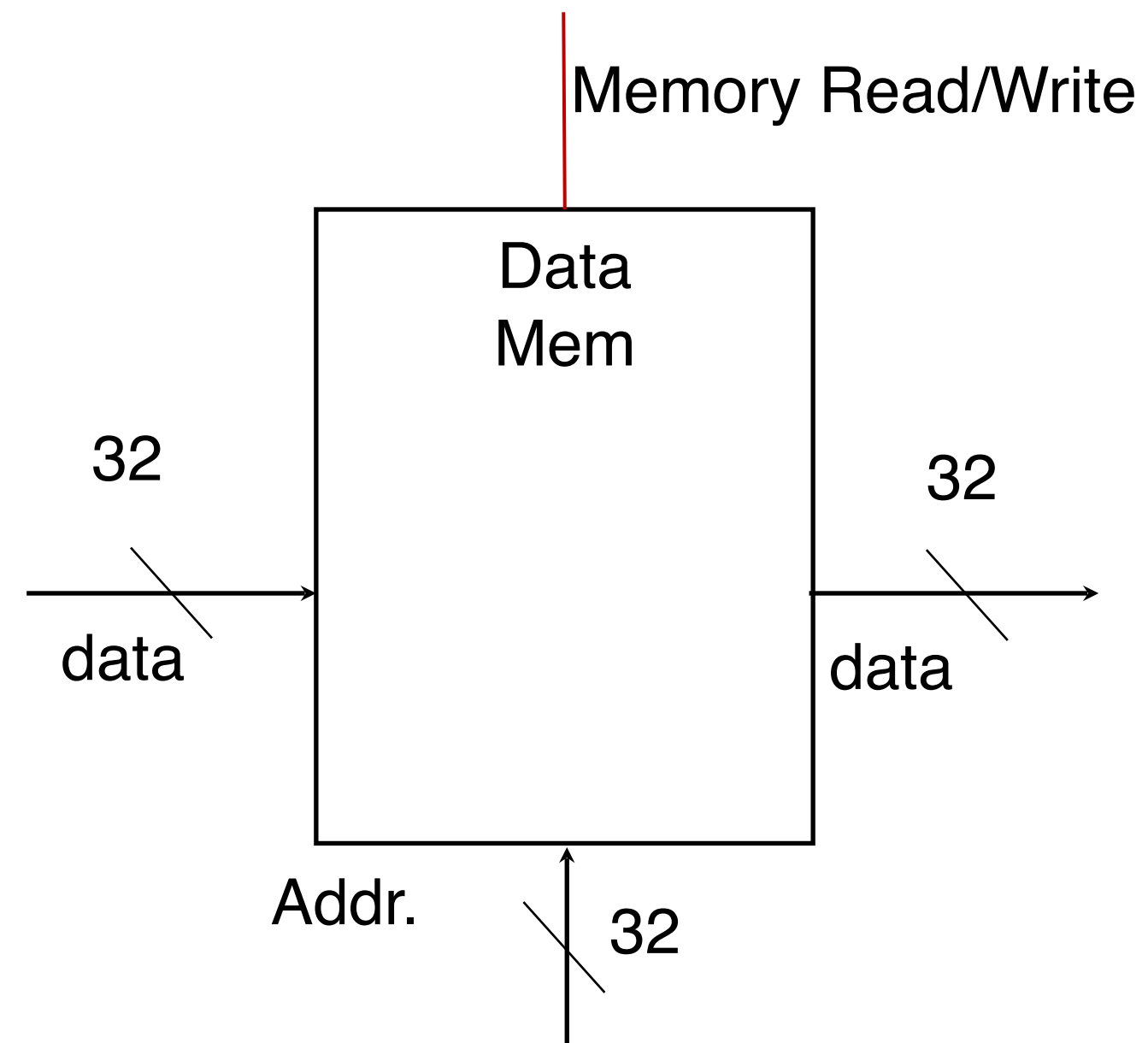
Datapath Elements: Data Memory



Why data and instruction memory and not one memory?

- Recall Harvard vs. Von Neuman
- Not so simple matter, will discuss later.

Datapath Elements: Data Memory



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Datapath Elements: Buses

- Same as your public transport
- Transfer data and instructions
- Separate buses for address and data

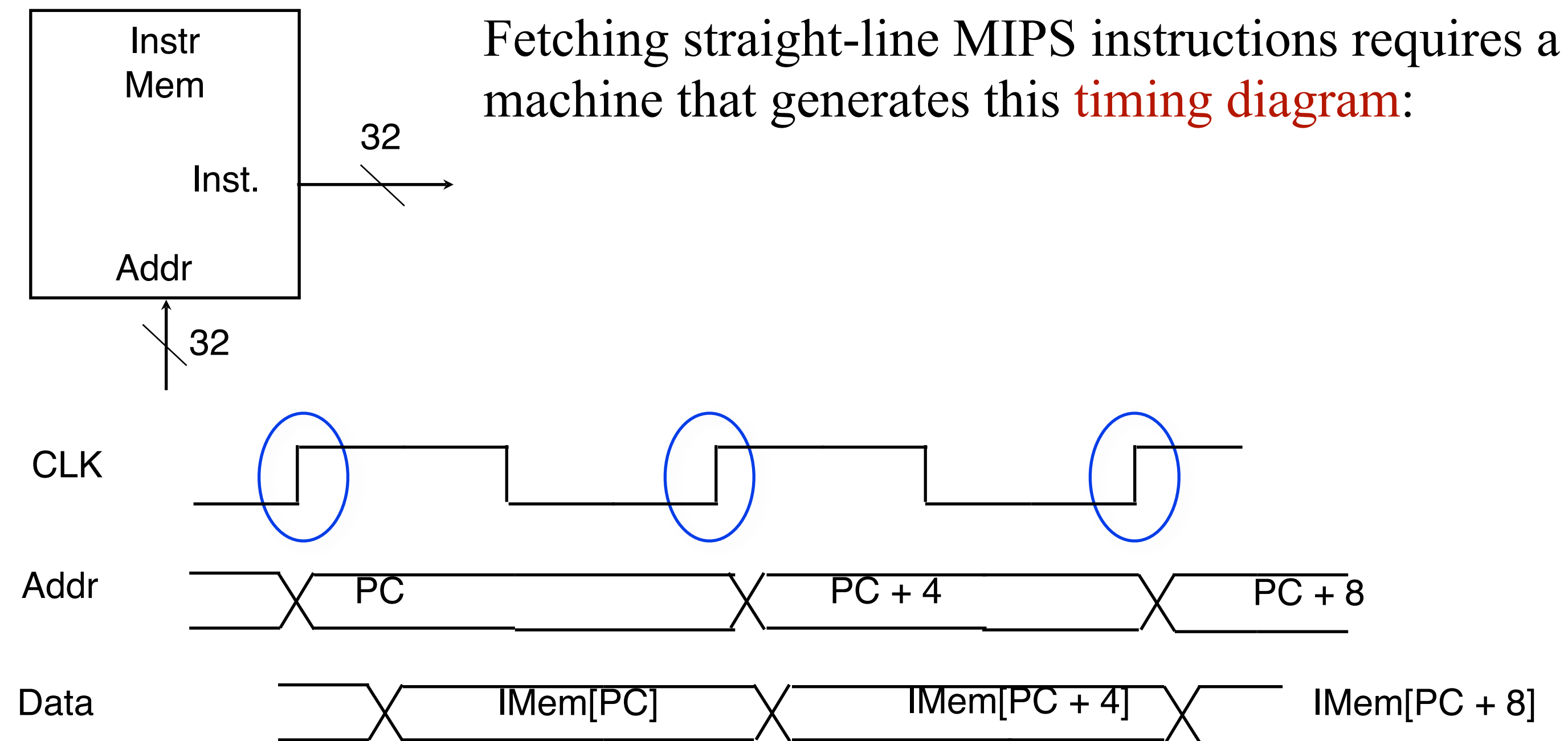


Datapath Elements: Buses

- Same as your public transport
- Transfer data and instructions
- Separate buses for address and data
 - Why???



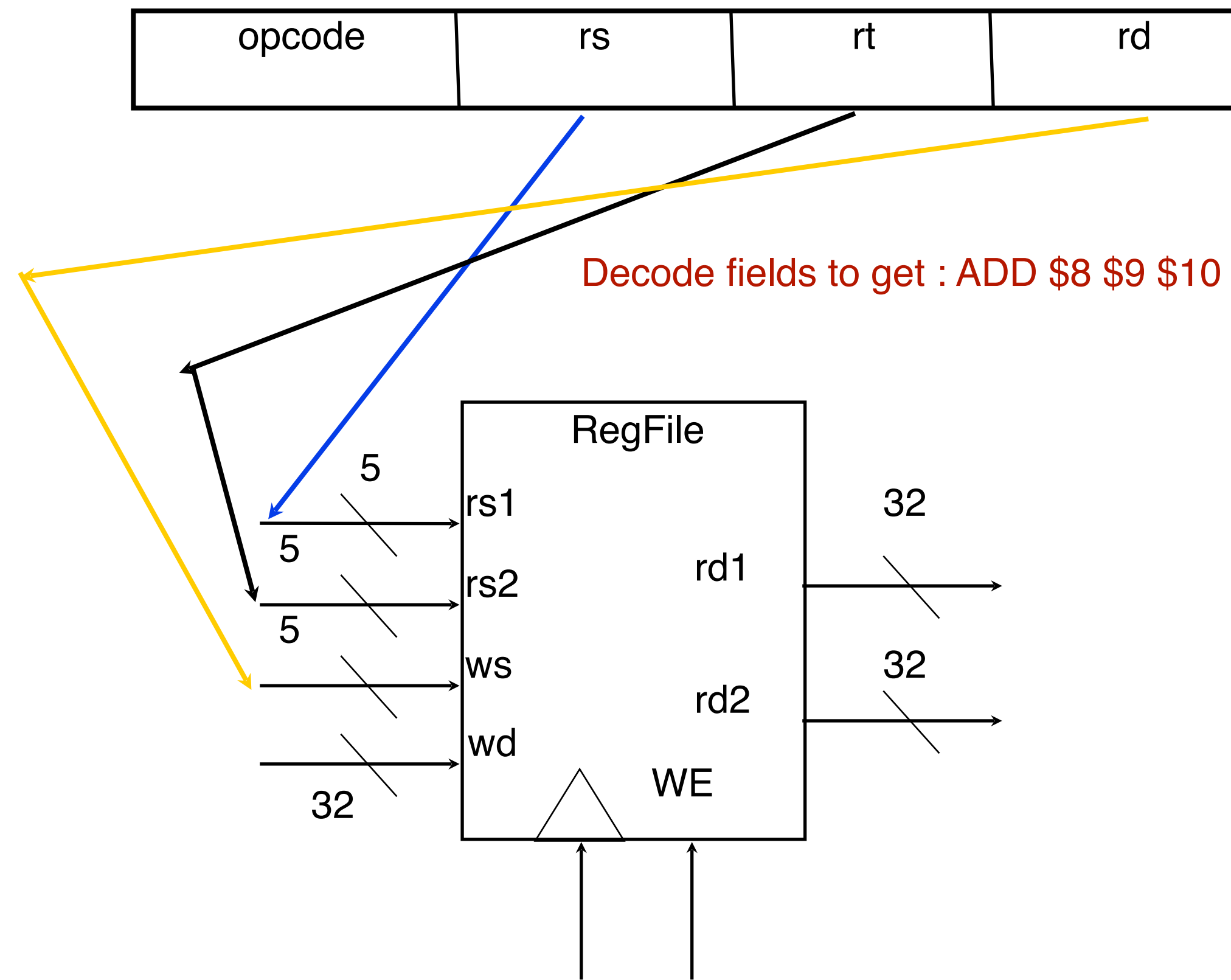
Datapath Elements: Timing Diagram



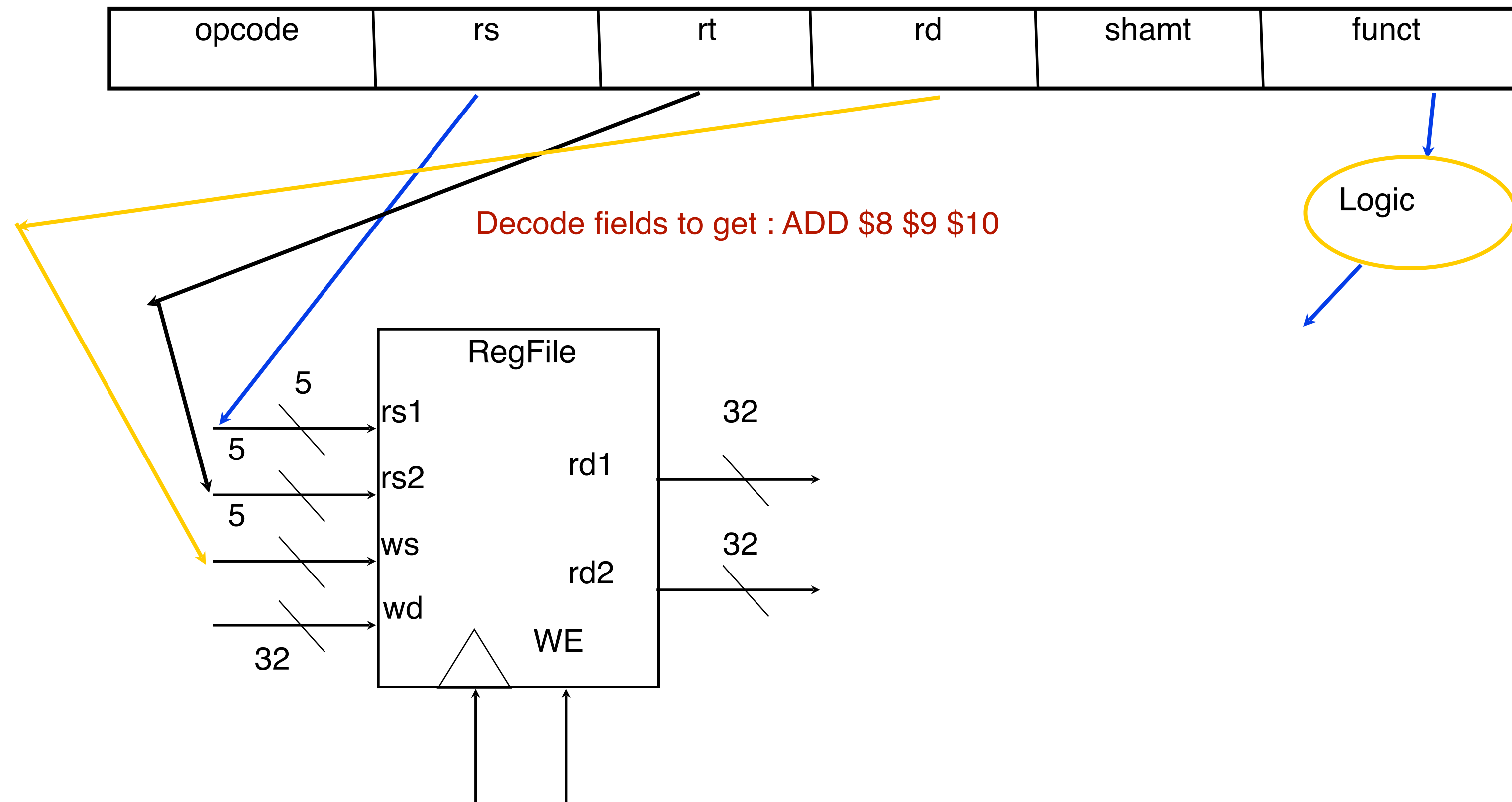
- Every clock cycle we process one instruction (super simple)
- Sending the PC and getting the instruction from memory is called **Instruction Fetch**

PC == Program Counter, points to next instruction.

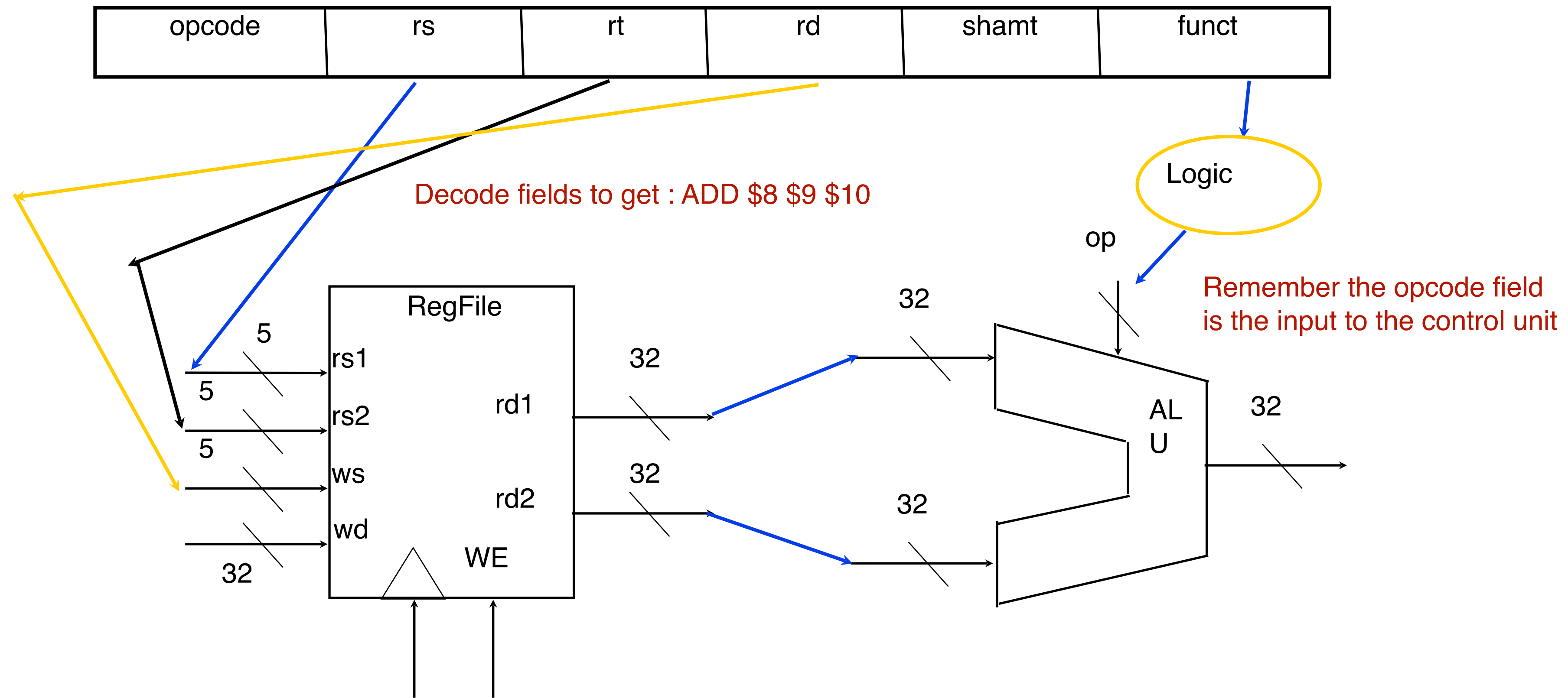
Datapath Elements: Decoding Instructions



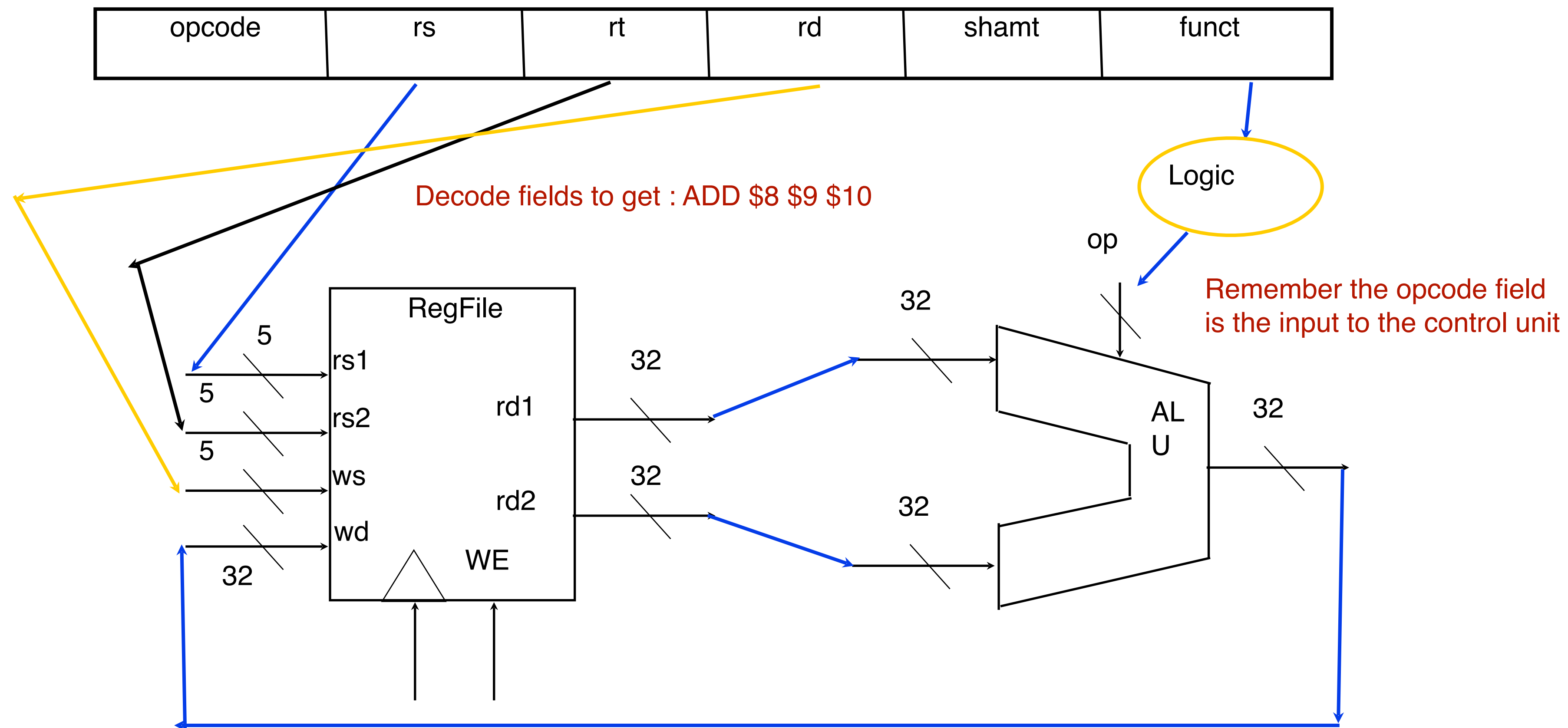
Datapath Elements: Decoding Instructions



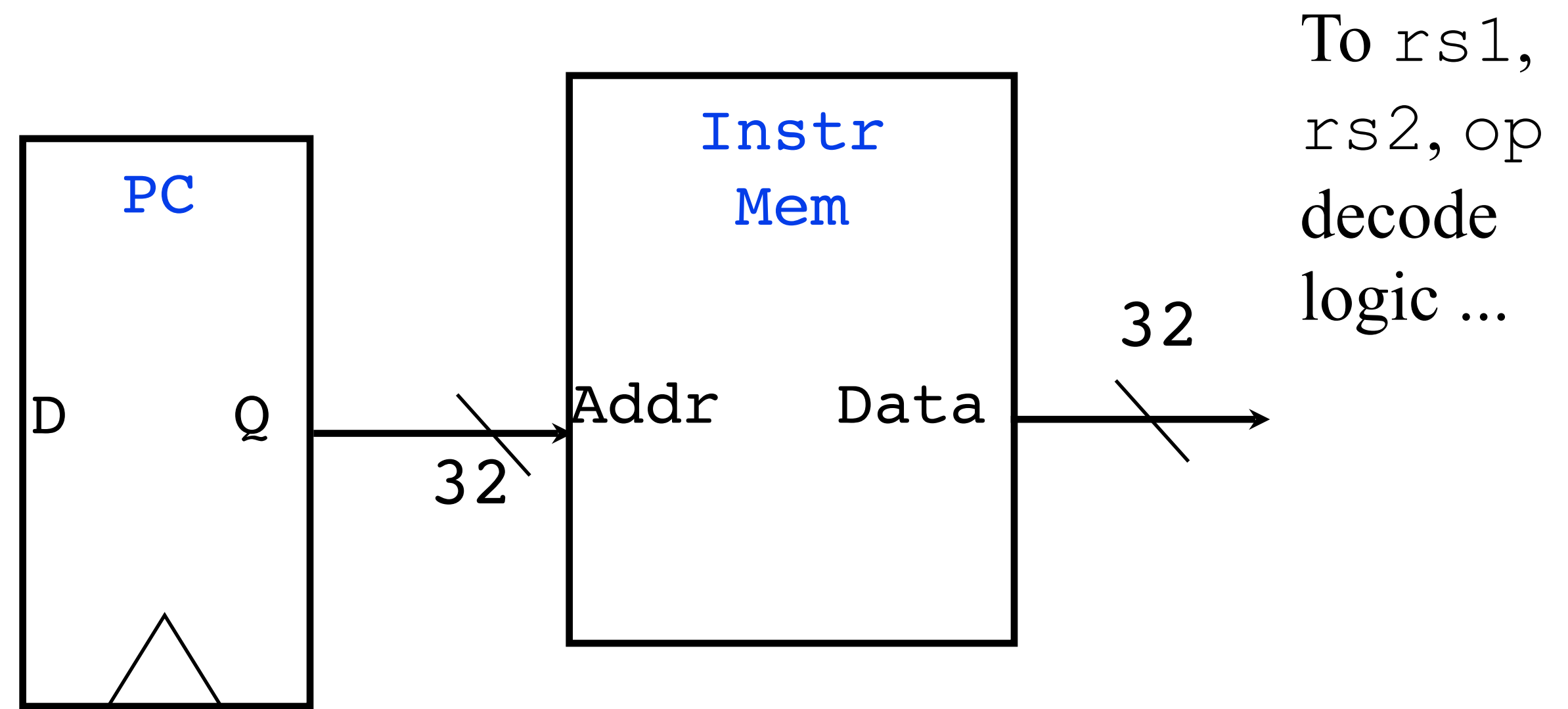
Datapath Elements: Executing Instructions



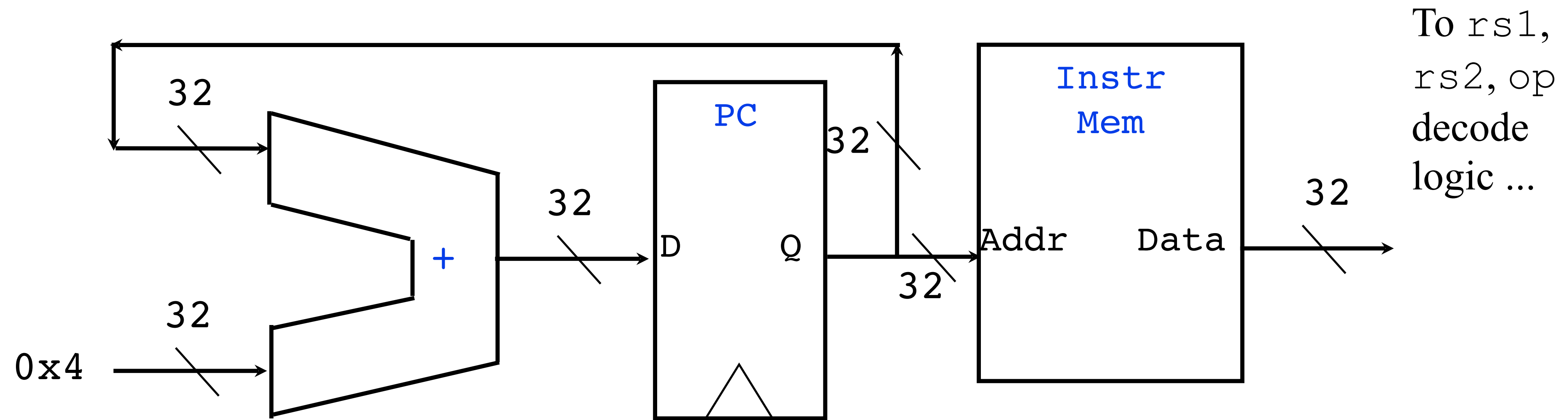
Datapath Elements: Executing Instructions



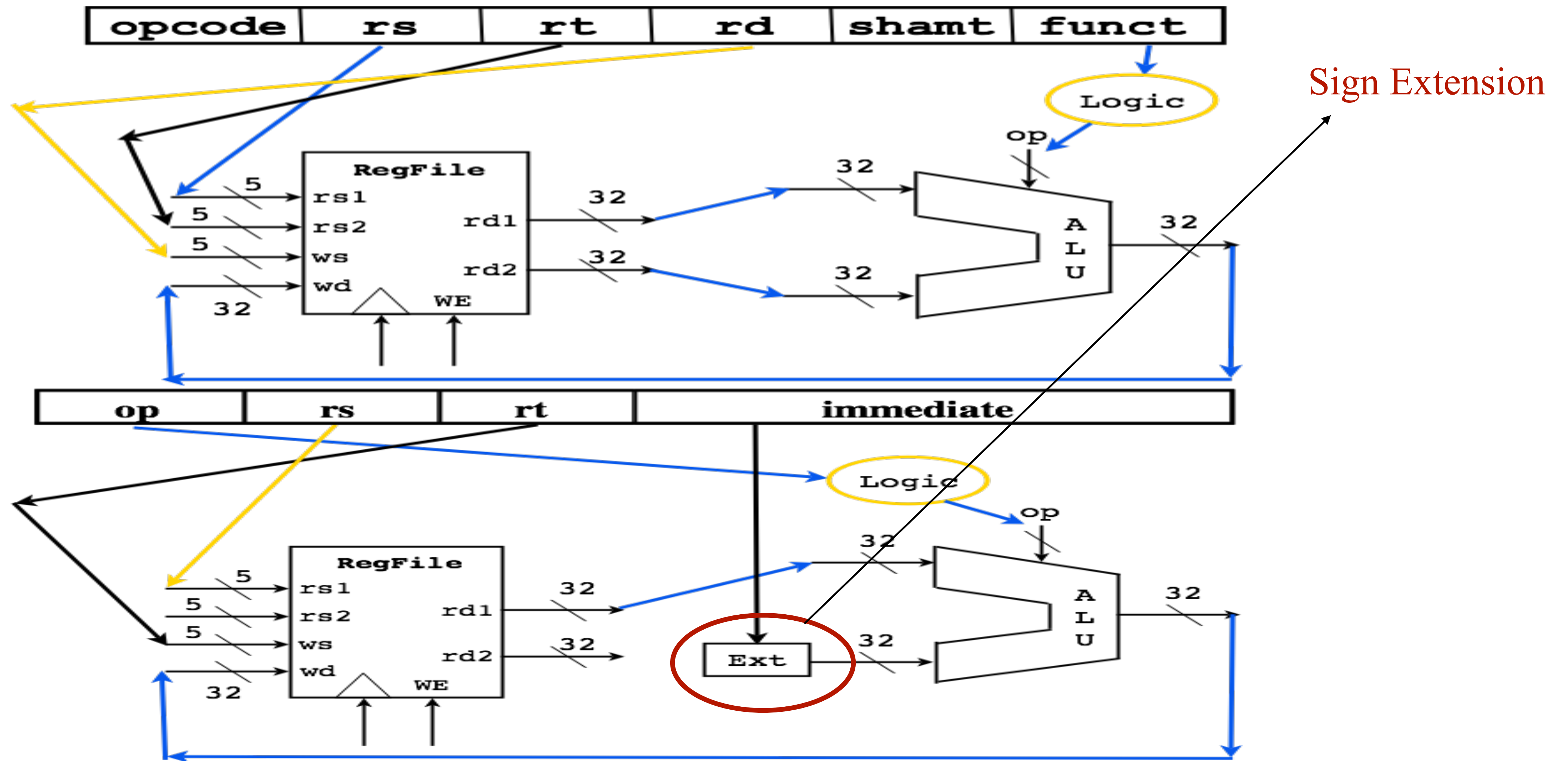
Datapath For Instruction Fetch



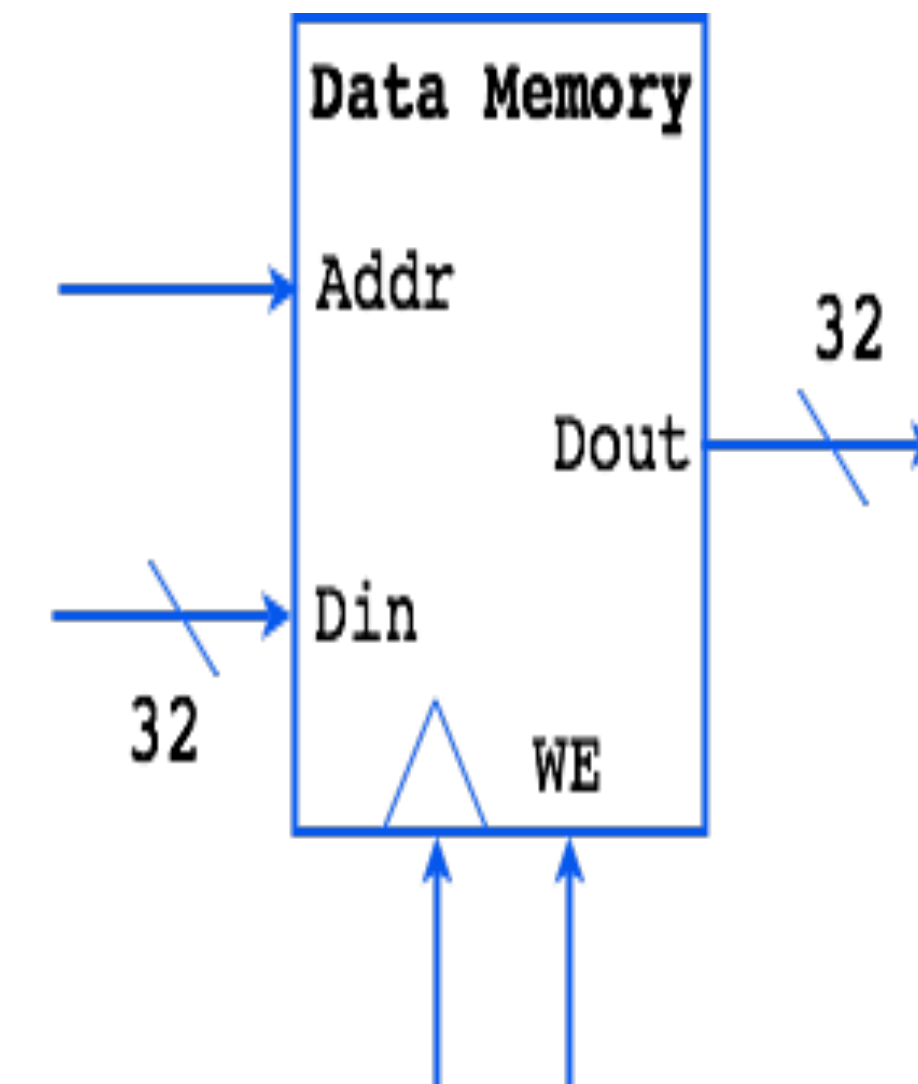
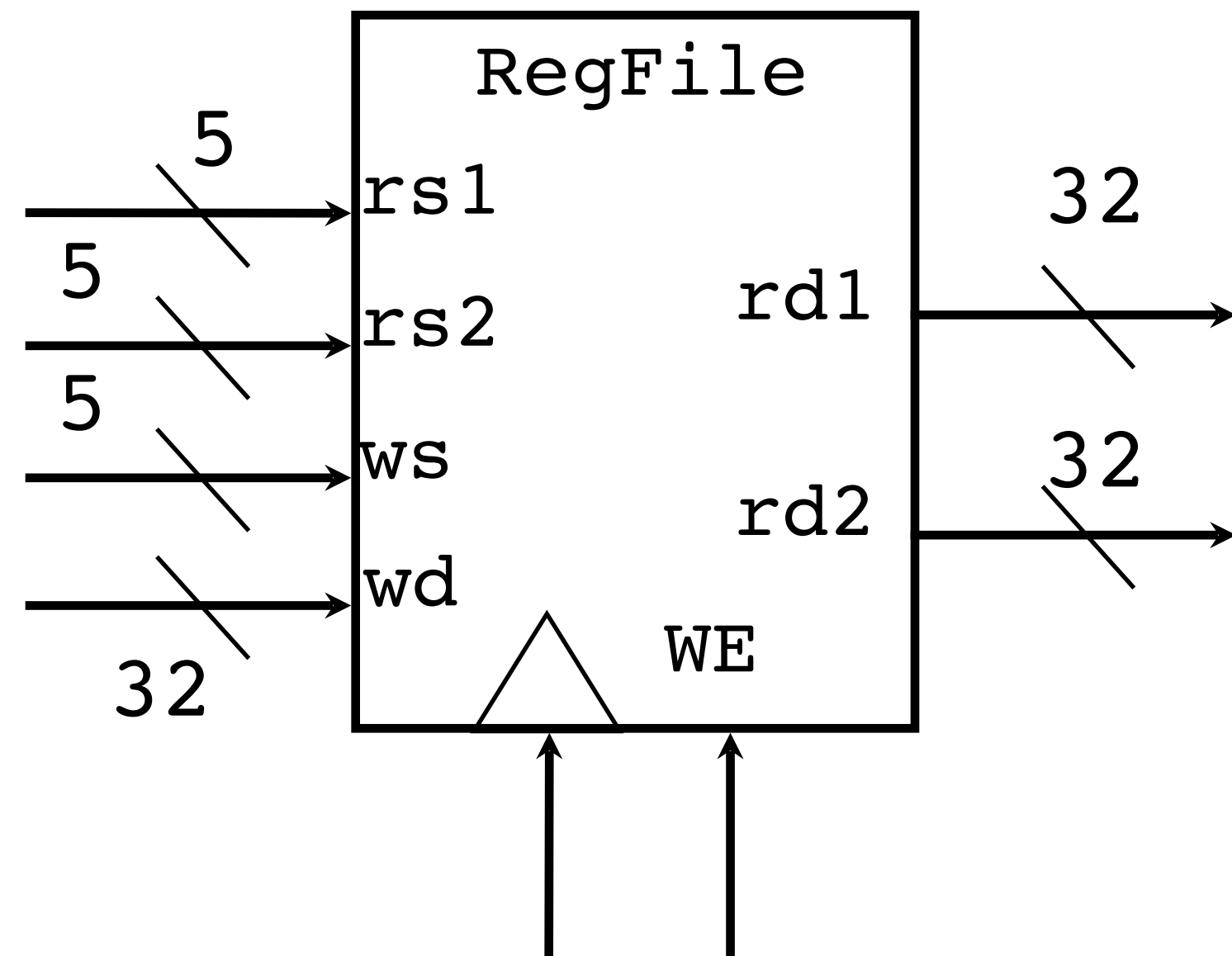
Datapath For Instruction Fetch



What about I format?



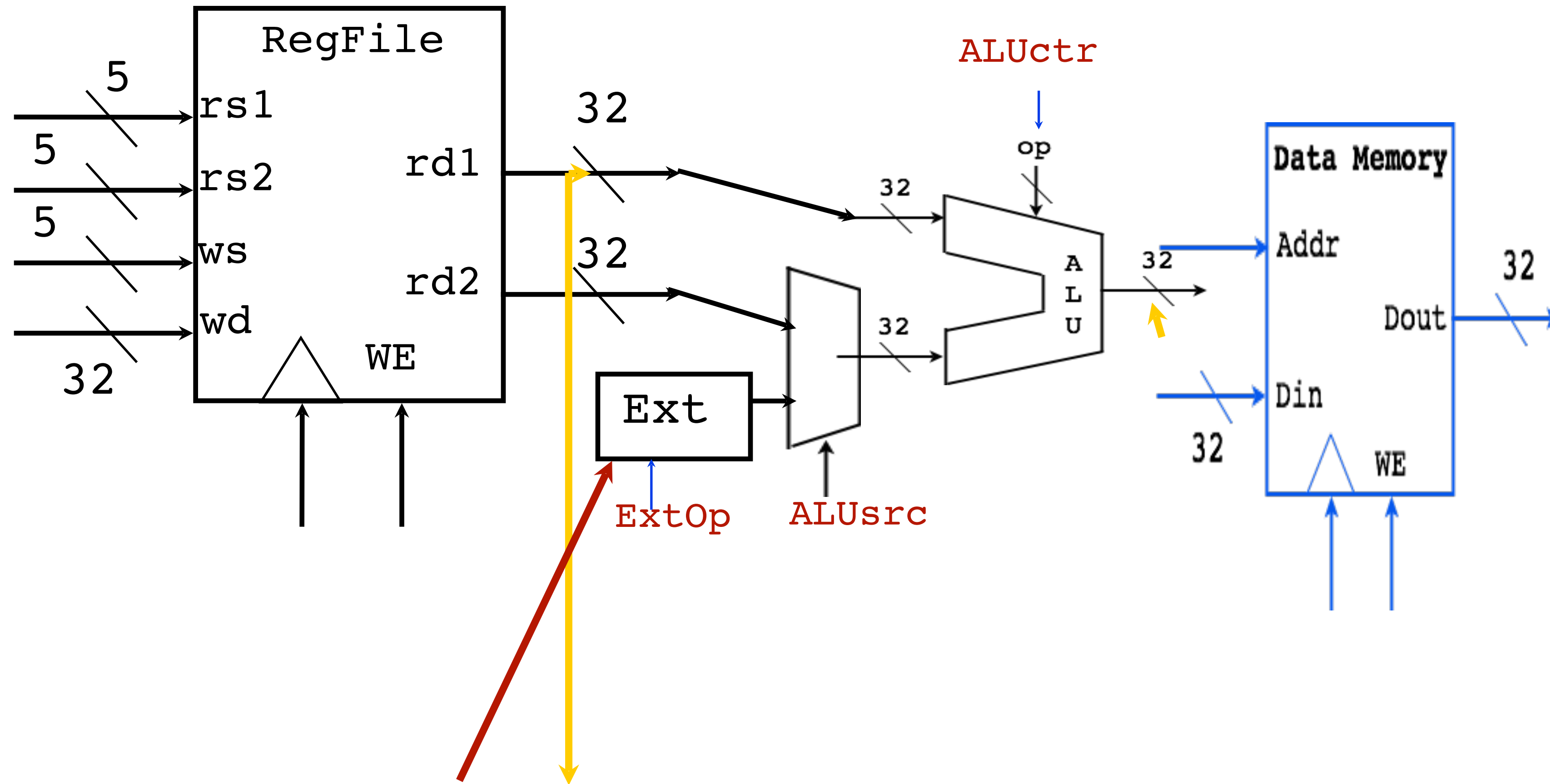
Loads from Memory



Syntax: `LW $1, 32($2)`

Action: $\$1 = M[\$2 + 32]$

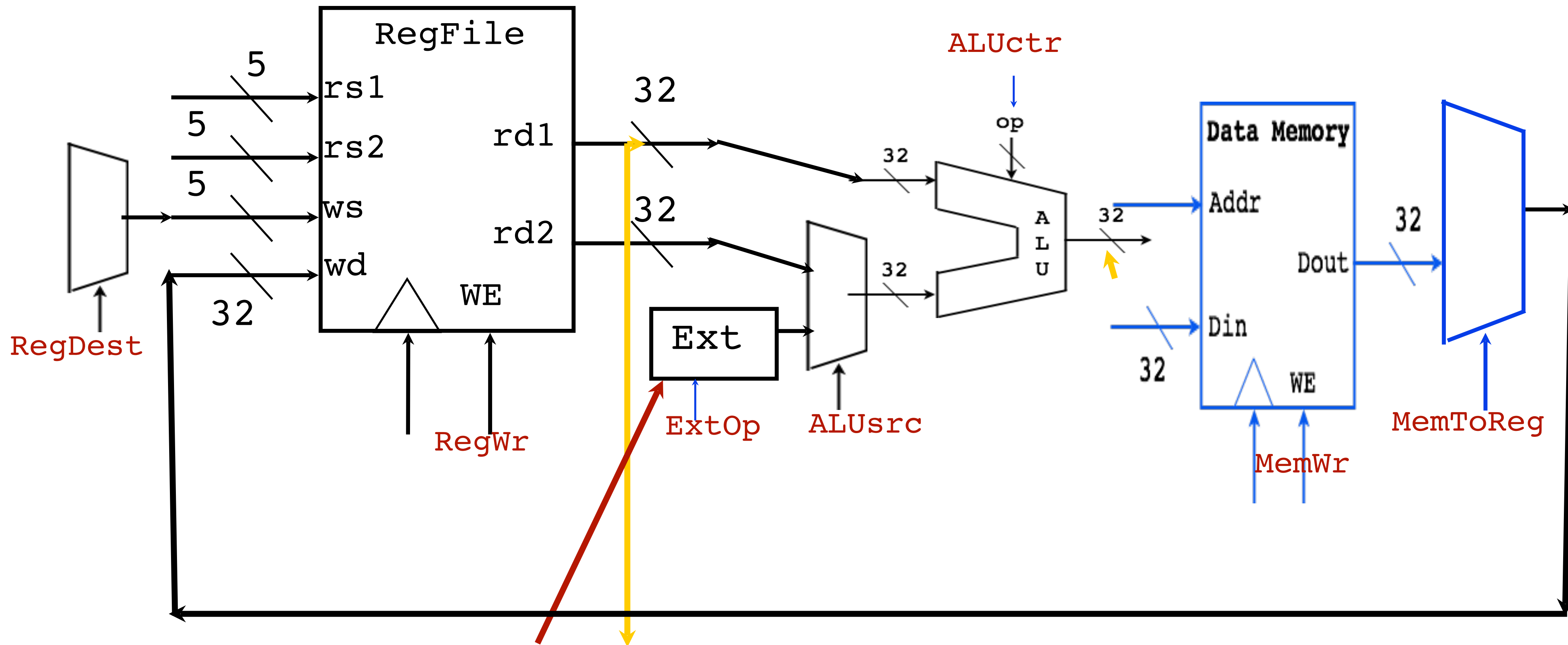
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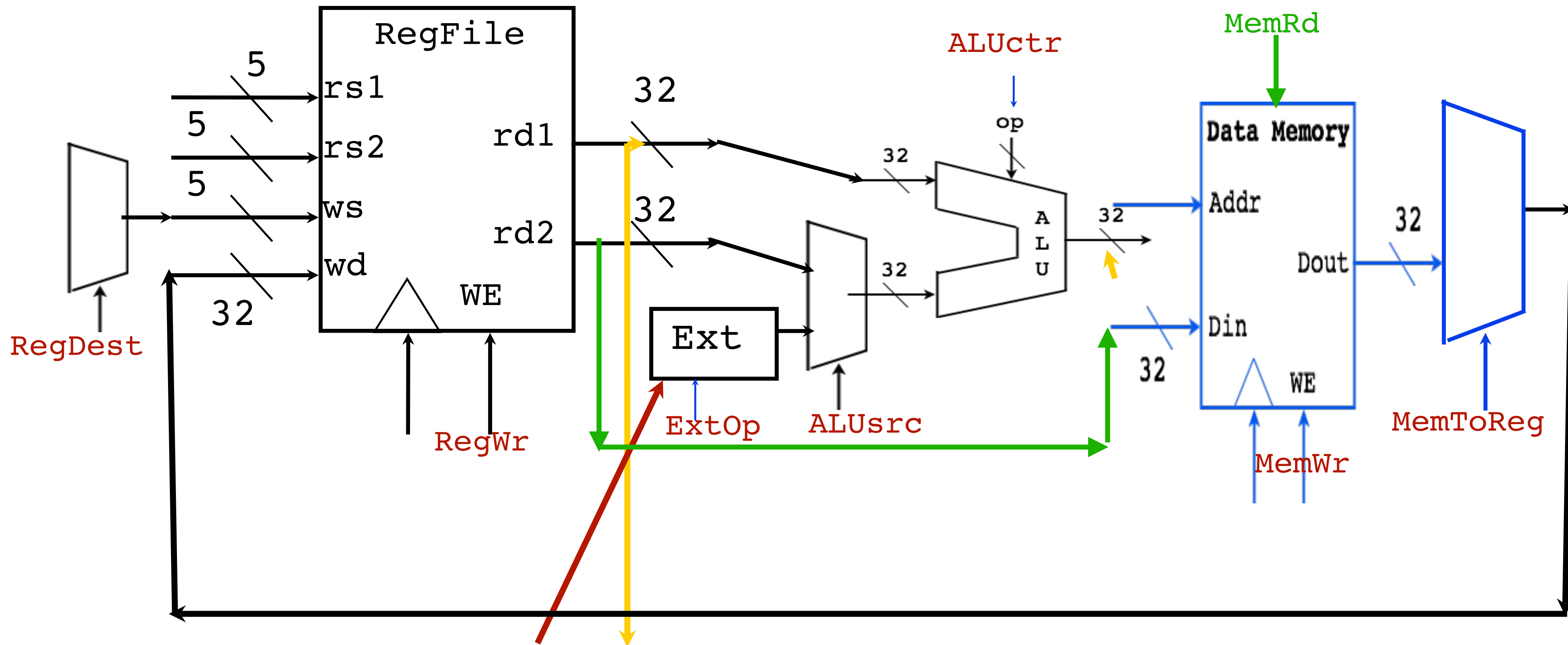
Loads from Memory



Syntax: `LW $1, 32($2)`

Action: $\$1 = M[\$2 + 32]$

Stores to Memory (with Load Datapath)



Syntax: SW \$1, 32(\$2)

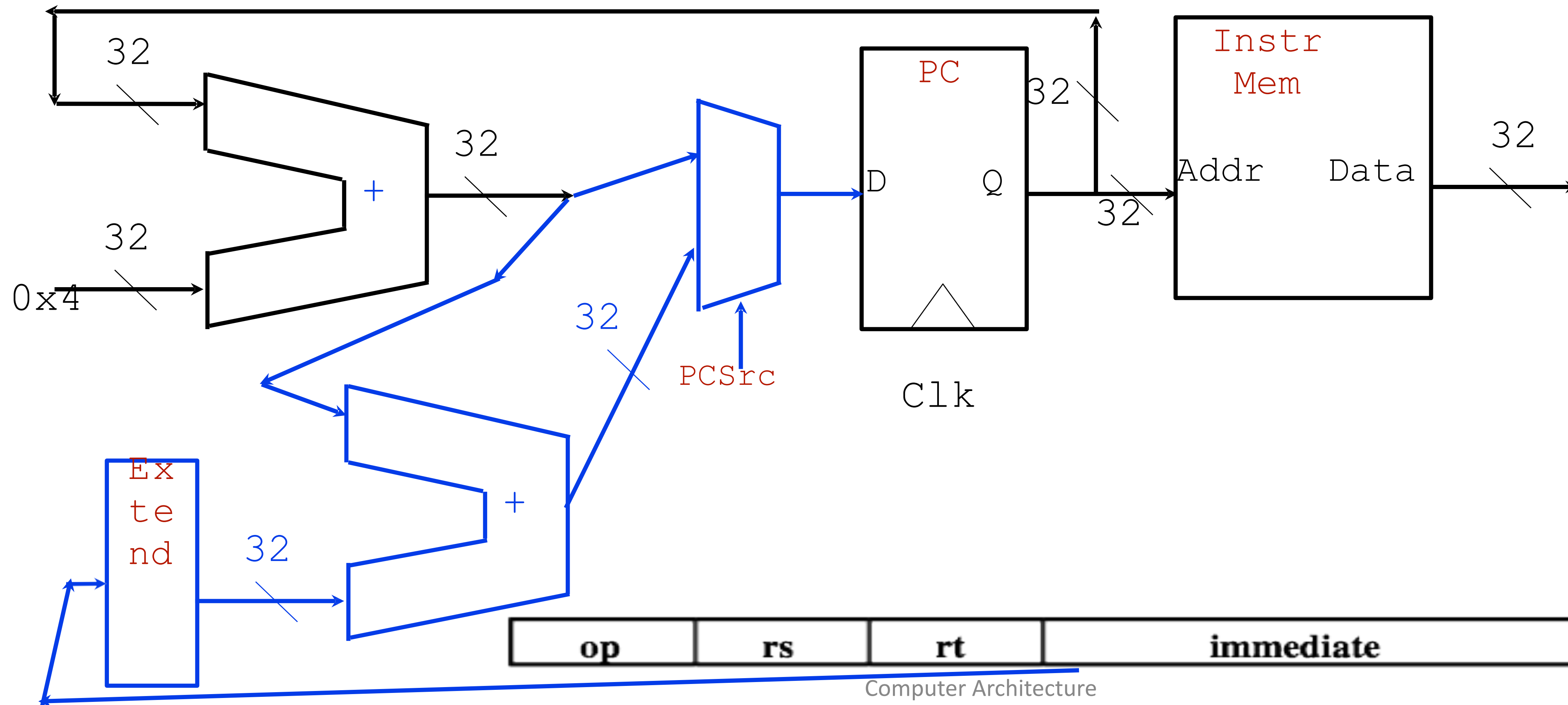
Action: $M[\$2 + 32] = \1

Branch Instructions

Syntax: BEQ \$1, \$2, 12

Action: If (\$1 != \$2), PC = PC + 4

Action: If (\$1 == \$2), PC = PC + 4 + 48



Branch Instructions

Syntax: BEQ \$1, \$2, 12

Action: If (\$1 != \$2), PC = PC + 4

Action: If (\$1 == \$2), PC = PC + 4 + 48

